

Malaysia July rubber output up 17.4%

Malaysia's natural rubber (NR) production in July 2011 rose by 14,895 tonnes, or 17.4 per cent, to 100,281 tonnes from the previous month.

Year-on-year (YOY) production increased by 23.7 per cent, the Statistics Department said in its latest rubber statistics released recently.

It said the smallholding sector contributed 94.5 per cent to total production and the rest was from the estate sector. Total exports declined by 11,257 tonnes, or 16.4 per cent, to 57,334 tonnes compared with the previous

month.

YOY, exports dropped by 18,171 tonnes, or 24.1 per cent.

Standard Malaysian Rubber (SMR) accounted for 95.4 per cent of total exports, with the largest contributor being the SMR 20, which gave 50.3 per cent. For the month, the main export destinations were China (34.7 per cent), Germany (14.2 per cent), South Korea (6 per cent), US (five per cent), Belgium (2.8 per cent), Portugal (2.4 per cent), Iran (2.4 per cent), France (2.3 per cent), Taiwan (2.3 per cent)

and Brazil (2.1 per cent).

NR imports in July 2011 increased by 1,998 tonnes, or 4.4 per cent, to 47,898 tonnes over the previous month. YOY, total imports, however, shrank by 9,135 tonnes, or 16 per cent.

More than half of the total NR imports, or 51.4 per cent, consisted of latex concentrate with a total of 24,624 tonnes. Domestic consumption of NR in July 2011 increased by 4,136 tonnes, or 13.4 per cent, to 34,995 tonnes compared with a month ago but fell by 3,166 tonnes, or 8.3 per cent, YOY.

In July 2011, total stocks of NR stocks held rose by 14,179 tonnes, or 11.6 per cent, to 136,112 tonnes from the previous month.

YOY, it increased by 14.6 per cent. The average monthly price of latex concentrate in July 2011 was 874.21 sen, a decline of 48.86 sen, or 5.3 per cent, over the previous month and up 26.1 per cent YOY.

For the month, the price of SMR 20 fell by 12.26 sen, or 0.9 per cent, to 1,341.31 sen. YOY, it rose by 46.6 per cent.

(Daily Star)